

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

September 28, 2010

According to the 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count report, each night, more than 48,000 people are homeless throughout Los Angeles County.

In 2009, the Los Angeles County Continuums of Care including Los Angeles, Long Beach, Glendale and Pasadena, collectively received more than \$90 million in homeless funding through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This funding, distributed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is administered by the Los Angeles County Continuums of Care, and is allocated to programs focused on addressing the needs of individuals and families who are homeless throughout our region.

With the passage of the HEARTH Act in 2009, HUD has been given the opportunity to consider changes to the McKinney-Vento funding formula by May 2011.

Recent research by United Way, Los Angeles, indicates that McKinney-Vento funds are currently allocated to metropolitan areas using two outdated formulas which were originally created for community development grants in the 1970s. The current formulas include factors, such as the age of housing stock and population growth lag, which do not relate to the root causes of homelessness.

MOTION

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The current formulas thus result in a distribution of funds that does not equitably address the level of need in communities across the country. For example, Los Angeles receives \$1,961 per homeless individual whereas Pittsburgh receives \$10,391 per homeless individual. Because funding is currently not distributed based on community need, regions like Los Angeles have been deprived of millions of dollars in homeless funding every year.

United Way's extensive research demonstrates that poverty, coupled with the housing market conditions related to availability of affordable housing and overcrowding, are the major structural determinants of homelessness. By using these three factors that predict homelessness in the McKinney-Vento funding formula, Los Angeles will receive a more equitable share of funding to better address homelessness in Los Angeles County.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board:

- 1) Direct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to prepare and send a five signatures letter from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the Honorable Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to request the adoption of two major revisions to the McKinney Vento funding formula to include the three key factors directly related to homelessness: poverty, availability of affordable housing, and overcrowded housing; and create one formula for all metropolitan regions rather than continuing to use multiple formulas.
- 2) Direct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to send copies of the five signatures letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation.
- 3) Sign and join in support of the letter prepared by United Way, Los Angeles with 50 other signatories from cities across the country to HUD Secretary Donovan, to urge these changes in the McKinney Vento funding formula.